

CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A computer system for providing a valuation of an intellectual property asset, the computer system  
5 comprising:  
at least one server computer connected to one or more client computers via a global-area network; and  
a computer program executed by the server computer;  
10 wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:  
storing information about the intellectual property asset in a database, the information comprising a technology classification;  
15 storing information about publicly traded securities according to the technology classification in the database; and  
generating a valuation based on call option pricing theory, using the information about the  
20 intellectual property asset and the information about the publicly traded securities stored in the database.
2. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the  
25 information about the intellectual property asset comprises information from legal instruments conveying rights to the intellectual property asset.
3. The computer system of claim 2, wherein the  
30 information about the intellectual property asset further comprises estimated time and cost to commercialize a product based on the intellectual property asset.

4. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the information about publicly traded securities comprises enterprise value of companies in a same technology classification as the intellectual property asset.

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5. The computer system of claim 4, wherein the enterprise values are updated periodically based on stock prices, shares outstanding, and book value of the companies, wherein the stock prices are transferred to the database from an external source.

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6. The computer system of claim 1, wherein computing a valuation based on call option pricing theory further comprises using information about completed intellectual property asset transfer transactions.

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7. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the call option pricing theory is the Black-Scholes theory.

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8. The computer system of claim 1, wherein the computer program further comprises instructions for evaluating risk of the intellectual property asset based on a change of the valuation relative to a change in an average of enterprise values of publicly traded companies in a same technology classification as the intellectual property asset.

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9. A computer system for determining a suggested price for transfer of intellectual property rights between buyers and sellers of intellectual property assets, wherein the rights comprise licenses and assignments of the intellectual property assets, the computer system comprising:

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at least one server computer connected to one or more client computers via a global-area network; and a computer program executed by the server computer;

5 wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

storing information about a term of an intellectual property asset and about licensing conditions offered by the seller in a database;  
10 and

generating a suggested asking price wherein a value of the intellectual property rights is modified according to the licensing conditions.

15 10. The computer system of claim 9, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for graphically displaying on a client computer projected yearly income to the seller over the term of the intellectual property asset, based on the  
20 suggested selling price, and a balance between immediate and future payments.

11. The computer system of claim 9, wherein the computer program further comprises computer  
25 instructions for computing the balance between immediate and future payments such that the sum of the immediate payment and the future payments is equal to the suggested selling price, wherein the future payments are modified by a discount rate which depends  
30 on a risk valuation of the intellectual property asset.

12. A computer system for providing an index for market value of intellectual property assets belonging

to a technology classification, the computer system comprising:

at least one server computer connected to one or more client computers via a global-area network; and

5 a computer program executed by the server computer;

wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

10 storing information about companies having publicly traded securities in a database, wherein the companies operate predominantly within the technology classification; and

15 computing an average of the enterprise value of the companies using the information about the companies stored in the database.

13. The computer system of claim 12 wherein the information about companies having publicly traded securities comprises a stock price, number of  
20 outstanding shares, assets, and debts of the companies and wherein the enterprise value of each company is calculated based on the product of the stock price and the number of outstanding shares less the difference between the assets and debts of each company.

25 14. The computer system of claim 13 wherein information about the stock prices of the companies is transferred periodically to the database via the global-area network and the computer program further  
30 comprises instructions for recalculating the average of enterprise values periodically based on updated stock prices.

15. A computer system for storing information about intellectual property assets, the computer system comprising:

at least one server computer connected to one or  
5 more client computers via a global-area network; and  
a computer program executed by the server computer;

wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for:

10 storing quantitative information about attributes of a technology described by the intellectual property assets.

16. The computer system of claim 15 wherein the  
15 quantitative information for each attribute comprises a standard scientific unit, a description of the attribute, a minimum value of the attribute achieved by the technology, expressed in the unit, and a maximum value of the attribute achieved by the technology,  
20 expressed in the unit.

17. A method for providing a valuation of an intellectual property asset using a computer system comprising at least one server computer and one or more  
25 client computers connected to the server computer via a global-area network, the method comprising:

storing information about the intellectual property asset in a database, the information comprising a technology classification;

30 storing information about publicly traded securities according to the technology classification in the database; and

generating a valuation based on call option pricing theory, using the information about the

intellectual property asset and the information about the publicly traded securities stored in the database.

5           18. The method of claim 17, wherein the information about the intellectual property asset comprises information from legal instruments conveying rights to the intellectual property asset.

10           19. The method of claim 18, wherein the information about the intellectual property asset further comprises estimated time and cost to commercialize a product based on the intellectual property asset.

15           20. The method of claim 17, wherein the information about publicly traded securities comprises enterprise value of companies in a same technology classification as the intellectual property asset.

20           21. The method of claim 20, wherein the enterprise values are updated periodically based on stock prices, shares outstanding, and book value of the companies, wherein the stock prices are transferred to  
25 the database from an external source.

22. The method of claim 17, wherein computing a valuation based on call option pricing theory further comprises using information about completed  
30 intellectual property asset transfer transactions.

23. The method of claim 17, wherein the call option pricing theory is the Black-Scholes theory.

24. The method of claim 17, wherein the computer program further comprises instructions for evaluating risk of the intellectual property asset based on a change of the valuation relative to a change in an average of enterprise values of publicly traded companies in a same technology classification as the intellectual property asset.

25. A method for determining a suggested price for transfer of intellectual property rights between buyers and sellers of intellectual property assets, wherein the rights comprise licenses and assignments of the intellectual property assets, the method using a computer system comprising at least one server computer and one or more client computers connected to the server computer via a global-area network, and the method comprising:

storing information about a term of an intellectual property asset and about licensing conditions offered by the seller in a database; and

generating a suggested asking price wherein a value of the intellectual property rights is modified according to the licensing conditions.

26. The method of claim 25, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for graphically displaying on a client computer projected yearly income to the seller over the term of the intellectual property asset, based on the suggested selling price, and a balance between immediate and future payments.

27. The method of claim 25, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for computing the balance between immediate and future payments such that the sum of the immediate payment and the future payments is equal to the suggested selling price, wherein the future payments are modified by a discount rate which depends on a risk valuation of the intellectual property asset.

10 28. A method for providing an index for market value of intellectual property assets belonging to a technology classification using a computer system comprising at least one server computer and one or more client computers connected to the server computer via a global-area network, the method comprising:

15 storing information about companies having publicly traded securities in a database, wherein the companies operate predominantly within the technology classification; and

20 computing an average of the enterprise value of the companies using the information about the companies stored in the database.

25 29. The method of claim 28 wherein the information about companies having publicly traded securities comprises a stock price, number of outstanding shares, assets, and debts of the companies and wherein the enterprise value of each company is calculated based on the product of the stock price and the number of outstanding shares less the difference between the assets and debts of each company.

30 30. The method of claim 29 wherein information about the stock prices of the companies is transferred



periodically to the database via the global-area network and the computer program further comprises instructions for recalculating the average of enterprise values periodically based on updated stock prices.

31. A method for storing information about intellectual property assets using a computer system comprising at least one server computer and one or more client computers connected to the server computer via a global-area network, the method comprising:

storing quantitative information about attributes of a technology described by the intellectual property assets.

32. The method of claim 31 wherein the quantitative information for each attribute comprises a standard scientific unit, a description of the attribute, a minimum value of the attribute achieved by the technology, expressed in the unit, and a maximum value of the attribute achieved by the technology, expressed in the unit.

33. A computer-readable storage medium operatively coupled to a computer system for providing a valuation of an intellectual property asset, wherein the computer system comprises at least one server computer connected to one or more client computers via a global-area network, the computer-readable storage medium comprising computer instructions for:

storing information about the intellectual property asset in a database, the information comprising a technology classification;

storing information about publicly traded securities according to the technology classification in the database; and

5 generating a valuation based on call option pricing theory, using the information about the intellectual property asset and the information about the publicly traded securities stored in the database.

10 34. The storage medium of claim 33, wherein the information about the intellectual property asset comprises information from legal instruments conveying rights to the intellectual property asset.

15 35. The storage medium of claim 34, wherein the information about the intellectual property asset further comprises estimated time and cost to commercialize a product based on the intellectual property asset.

20 36. The storage medium of claim 33, wherein the information about publicly traded securities comprises enterprise value of companies in a same technology classification as the intellectual property asset.

25 37. The storage medium of claim 36, wherein the enterprise values are updated periodically based on stock prices, shares outstanding, and book value of the companies, wherein the stock prices are transferred to  
30 the database from an external source.

38. The storage medium of claim 33, wherein computing a valuation based on call option pricing theory further comprises using information about

completed intellectual property asset transfer transactions.

39. The storage medium of claim 33, wherein the  
5 call option pricing theory is the Black-Scholes theory.

40. The storage medium of claim 33, wherein the  
computer program further comprises instructions for  
evaluating risk of the intellectual property asset  
10 based on a change of the valuation relative to a change  
in an average of enterprise values of publicly traded  
companies in a same technology classification as the  
intellectual property asset.

41. A computer-readable storage medium  
operatively coupled to a computer system for  
determining a suggested price for transfer of  
intellectual property rights between buyers and sellers  
of intellectual property assets, wherein the rights  
20 comprise licenses and assignments of the intellectual  
property assets, and wherein the computer system  
comprises at least one server computer connected to one  
or more client computers via a global-area network, the  
computer-readable storage medium comprising computer  
25 instructions for:

storing information about a term of an  
intellectual property asset and about licensing  
conditions offered by the seller in a database;  
and

30 generating a suggested asking price wherein a  
value of the intellectual property rights is  
modified according to the licensing conditions.

42. The storage medium of claim 41, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for graphically displaying on a client computer projected yearly income to the seller over the term of the intellectual property asset, based on the suggested selling price, and a balance between immediate and future payments.

43. The storage medium of claim 41, wherein the computer program further comprises computer instructions for computing the balance between immediate and future payments such that the sum of the immediate payment and the future payments is equal to the suggested selling price, wherein the future payments are modified by a discount rate which depends on a risk valuation of the intellectual property asset.

44. A computer-readable storage medium operatively coupled to a computer system for providing an index for market value of intellectual property assets belonging to a technology, wherein the computer system comprises at least one server computer connected to one or more client computers via a global-area network, the computer-readable storage medium comprising computer instructions for:

storing information about companies having publicly traded securities in a database, wherein the companies operate predominantly within the technology classification; and

computing an average of the enterprise value of the companies using the information about the companies stored in the database.

45. The storage medium of claim 44 wherein the information about companies having publicly traded securities comprises a stock price, number of outstanding shares, assets, and debts of the companies and wherein the enterprise value of each company is calculated based on the product of the stock price and the number of outstanding shares less the difference between the assets and debts of each company.

46. The storage medium of claim 45 wherein information about the stock prices of the companies is transferred periodically to the database via the global-area network and the computer program further comprises instructions for recalculating the average of enterprise values periodically based on updated stock prices.

47. A computer-readable storage medium operatively coupled to a computer system for storing information about intellectual property assets, wherein the computer system comprises at least one server computer connected to one or more client computers via a global-area network, the computer-readable storage medium comprising computer instructions for:

storing quantitative information about attributes of a technology described by the intellectual property assets.

48. The storage medium of claim 47 wherein the quantitative information for each attribute comprises a standard scientific unit, a description of the attribute, a minimum value of the attribute achieved by the technology expressed in the unit, and a maximum

value of the attribute achieved by the technology,  
expressed in the unit.

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